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Message Text

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11
ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 USPS-02 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /088 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ TD: ALFREEMAN: HY/ PRCM: CWFREEMAN, JR.
6/14/73 EXT 21733
APPROVED BY EA - RICHARD L. SNEIDER
EA/ PRCM - MR. SULLIVAN
EB/ IFD - MR. ELLIS
EB/ TD - MR. FRANK
EA - MR. BARGER
---------- 095242
R 150107 Z JUN 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E. O. 11652 N/ A
TAGS: PFOR, ETEL, CH
SUBJECT: US- PRC POSTAL SERVICE

1. UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (USPS) HAS FOR LAST FIFTEEN MONTHS BEEN CONDUCTING CORRESPONDENCE WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS, PEKING, RELATING TO RE-SUMPTION OF PARCEL POST EXCHANGES BETWEEN US AND PRC. SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS:

2. IN MARCH 3, 1972 LETTER USPS PROPOSED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS, PEKING, THAT PARCEL POST EXCHANGES BE RESUMED BETWEEN US AND PRC. USPS PROPOSED THAT PARCELS BE SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS COMMON TO THE INTER-NATIONAL PARCEL POST SERVICE AND THAT STANDARD USPS TERMINAL CHARGE APPLY.
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3. DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF POSTS REPLIED JULY 29, 1972 THAT IT AGREED TO PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE POSTAL PARCELS AND OUTLINED ITS APPLICABLE REGULATIONS. AFTER REFERENCE TO ASSETS FROZEN IN US IN 1950, IT PROPOSED THAT ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE WITH ACCOUNTS SETTLED THROUGH BANK OF THIRD COUNTRY.

4. USPS PROVIDED FURTHER DATA REGARDING PARCEL POST REGULATIONS ON OCTOBER 11, 1972. IN COMPANION LETTER USPS SUBMITTED FOR ACCEPTANCE BY PRC ACCOUNTS FOR POSTAL SERVICE PERFORMED BY US FROM 1949 TO DATE OF LETTER. AMOUNT CLAIMED BY USPS IS DOLS 261,603.48; IT REPRESENTS CHARGES FOR HANDLING AIRMAIL RECEIVED FROM PRC AND FOR TRANSIT OF AIRMAIL AND SURFACE MAIL THROUGH US TO THIRD COUNTRIES. USPS INVITED PRC TO SUBMIT ACCOUNTS TO USPS FOR SERVICES RENDERED ON BEHALF OF US FOR SAME PERIOD.

5. USPS WROTE PRC POSTAL AUTHORITIES ON DECEMBER 20, 1972 NOTING IT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED RESPONSE TO ITS OCTOBER 11, 1972 CORRESPONDENCE.

6. PRC POSTAL AUTHORITIES ACKNOWLEDGED THE USPS DECEMBER 20, 1972 LETTER ON MARCH 5, 1973. FURTHER TECHNICAL DETAILS WERE RAISED REGARDING OPERATION OF PARCEL POST SERVICE. THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO SETTLEMENT OF POSTAL DEBT.

7. USPS PROVIDED FURTHER TECHNICAL INFORMATION CLARIFYING OPERATION OF PARCEL POST SERVICE ON APRIL 26, 1973. BECAUSE USPS BELIEVED MUTUAL UNDER-STANDING HAD BEEN REACHED REGARDING OPERATION OF PARCEL POST SERVICE IT ASKED PRC POSTAL AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR VIEWS CONCERNING DATE TO COMMENCE SERVICE. FINALLY, USPS DREW ATTENTION TO OCTOBER 11, 1972 LETTER REGARDING DEBT, REQUESTED POSITION OF PRC, AND ASKED WHEN PRC MIGHT PRESENT USPS WITH ACCOUNTS FOR SERVICES RENDERED. USPS PROPOSED THAT ONCE ACCOUNTS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED, PRESENT AND FUTURE DEBTS
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COULD BE SETTLED BY OFFSETTING CREDITS AND DEBITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION PROCEDURES.

8. PRC POSTAL AUTHORITIES ADVISED USPS IN LETTER DATED JUNE 2 (WHICH ERRONEOUSLY REFERS TO USPS LETTER OF MAY 7 INSTEAD OF APRIL 26 LETTER) THAT IT PREPARED

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TO START SENDING PACKAGES JULY 1, 1973 AND ASKED WHAT DATE USPS WOULD COMMENCE SERVICE. IT AGREED TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT INTER-NATIONAL PRACTICE.

9. USPS WILL SHORTLY RESPOND THAT IT ACCEPTS JULY 1 DATE FOR RECEIVING PARCELS AND WILL IN TURN, BEGIN SENDING PARCELS ON SAME DATE. USPS LETTER WILL NOTE PRC ACCEPTANCE OF PRINCIPLE THAT ACCOUNTS BE SETTLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, AGAIN REQUEST PRC ACCOUNTS FOR SERVICES RENDERED ON BEHALF US POSTAL AUTHORITIES, AND DRAW ATTENTION TO USPS EARLIER PROPOSAL TO OFFSET THIS AMOUNT AND FUTURE AMOUNTS AGAINST PREVIOUS AND FUTURE CHARGES FOR PARCEL POST SERVICE. THIS LETTER AND PRC LETTER OF JUNE 2 BEING SENT TO USLO UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

10. FYI. WHILE USPS WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESUME PARCEL POST SERVICE WITHOUT REACHING AGREEMENT ON POSTAL DEBT, DEPARTMENT HAS PRESSED FOR LINKAGE OF RESUMPTION OF SERVICE TO LIQUIDATION OF DEBT AS RESULT OF BROAD CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVE TO REDUCE DEBTS OWED TO US. TO THIS END WE HAVE CALLED ON MANY OF OUR EMBASSIES TO ASSIST IN COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT INTERNATIONAL POSTAL OBLIGATIONS. END FYI PORTER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 JUN 1973
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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USLO PEKING
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